

ANG

PAHAYAGAN NG PARTIDO KOMUNISTA NG PILIPINAS  
PINAPATNUBAYAN NG  
MARXISMO-LENINISMO-MAOISMO

# Bayan

Volume XXXI No. 2

English Edition

February 2001

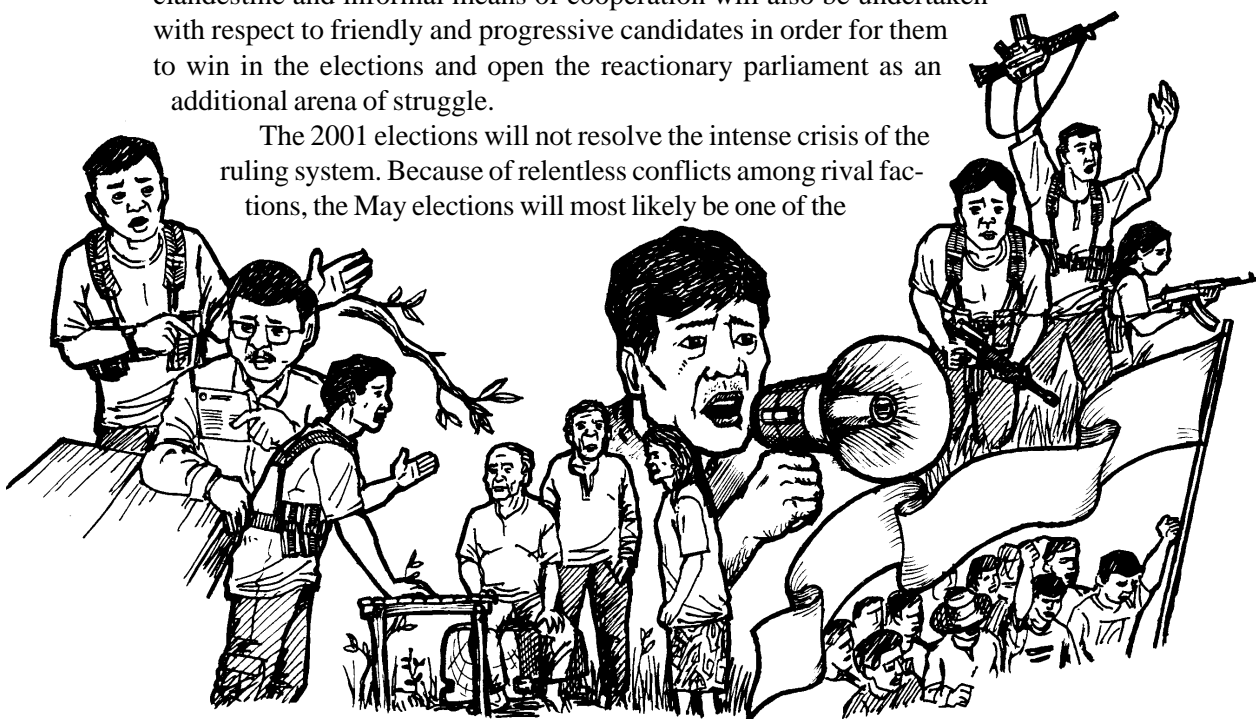
## EDITORIAL

# Tasks of the revolutionary movement in relation to the reactionary 2001 elections

**T**he May 2001 elections are a reactionary undertaking controlled by the exploitative and oppressive classes. Although they will not directly participate in the polls, the Party and New People's Army will take steps to effectively intervene in the reactionary elections to achieve revolutionary objectives.

The revolutionary and progressive forces will make use of all opportunities to isolate and resist rabid reactionaries and further strengthen the revolutionary armed movement and mass struggles for genuine social change. Along with this, clandestine and informal means of cooperation will also be undertaken with respect to friendly and progressive candidates in order for them to win in the elections and open the reactionary parliament as an additional arena of struggle.

The 2001 elections will not resolve the intense crisis of the ruling system. Because of relentless conflicts among rival factions, the May elections will most likely be one of the





ANG

**Bayan**Bolyum XXX  
Numero 6  
Oktubre 2000**CONTENTS**

- 1 **Editorial:** Tasks of the revolutionary movement in relation to the reactionary 2001 elections
- 4 Lacson: Butcher, trapo
- 4 Joseph Estrada's family and cronies continue to move around with impunity
- 6 Peace talks must proceed on basis of past agreements
- 7 Free all political prisoners!
- 8 A critique of the puppet Macapagal regime (1962-65)
- 9 **News from the Cagayan Valley Region:** (9) *Families benefit from agrarian revolution* (10) *Ka Andrea escapes* (10) *Continuing attacks by the fascist military in Cagayan Valley*
- 10 News of Struggle

**ANG BAYAN ON THE INTERNET**

The latest issue of AB, as well as all other issues since 1999 may be downloaded from the internet address:

**[www.angbayan.org](http://www.angbayan.org)**

Comments, suggestions and letters may be sent to the AB editorial staff through the e-mail address:

**[editors@angbayan.org](mailto:editors@angbayan.org)**

dirtyest, most violent and most fraudulent in the country's history. Although it may serve to consolidate the Macapagal-Arroyo regime through the victory of its candidates, intense cheating and violence in the coming polls will definitely result in even fiercer conflicts among rival reactionary factions.

BY MEANS of its control over resources, the police and military, the bureaucracy and mass media, the reactionary ruling classes have placed elections in the country under their power. Through such control, the reactionary system effectively removes any possibility for parties or groups representing the interests of the toiling masses to effectively participate in the elections.

The reactionary elections aim to conjure up the illusion of democracy when, in fact, there prevails the class dictatorship of exploiters and oppressors. It is a big deception to claim that the people enjoy democratic rights because they may choose among two or more parties, when only big reactionary parties are effectively able to participate in elections. Providing limited space for some progressives and mass organizations and parties serves to perpetuate this deception.

Reactionary elections are primarily a contest among rival factions of the ruling class to decide who among them would rule and how they would divide the perks of political power.

**TASKS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT DURING THE ELECTIONS**

The central task of the Communist Party and the New People's Army is to advance armed struggle in order to overthrow imperialist domination and the class dictatorship of the big comprador bourgeoisie and big landlords. Thus, it can not directly participate in reactionary elections.

However, it shall take advantage of the opportunities that the elections will provide to further intensify revolutionary armed struggle, advance anti-imperialist, antifeudal and antifascist mass struggles, further strengthen the influence of the revolutionary movement and broaden the national united front. In particular, it may involve itself in the elections through clandestine and informal means and significantly influence its result, with the objective of isolating and frustrating the election bids of rabidly reactionary candidates and advancing the victory of progressive and friendly candidates in order to work within the reactionary parliament as an additional arena of struggle.

**Expose the reactionary character of the elections.** We must show the masses that the elections are a political instrument controlled by the reactionary ruling classes and used by them to fortify their rule. We must expose the deception that the elections are a means for the people to enjoy the democratic right to choose who to put in government by exposing the fact that all big political parties possess the essential character of being pro-imperialist and champions of big bourgeois comprador and landlord interests.

The reformist and parliamentarist illusion that fundamental social change can be achieved through elections must be expunged. We must expose the theory of evolutionism being spread by the counter-revolutionary “third force” that change can be achieved by gradually strengthening influence within the parliament and the bureaucracy. There is need to clarify the central importance of revolutionary armed struggle in attaining genuine change, which is being hindered primarily by the reactionary armed forces; and the secondary but essential importance of various forms of unarmed struggle—and the primacy of organizing and waging collective mass action compared to all other forms of unarmed struggle.

While there may be various indirect and informal means of enjoining and supporting patriotic and progressive individuals and parties to participate in the elections, the Party and revolutionary forces must make an effort to clarify to them and to the masses of voters the limitations of working within the reactionary parliament and bureaucracy.

**Intensify armed struggle.** There is need to continuously advance revolutionary armed struggle and shatter the illusion that a peaceful and democratic order exists amid the widespread suffering of the masses and the prevalence of violence and criminality in various levels of the neocolonial state.

Big and small tactical offensives against the AFP and PNP must be intensified continuously. Continue to seize all opportunities to inflict wounds and deal blows against the reactionary armed forces and strengthen the New People’s Army. There is need to continuously broaden the revolutionary mass base in the countryside and advance the antifeudal struggles of the peasant masses.

The people’s notorious enemies must not be allowed to predominate without being held answerable for their grave crimes against the people. Charges against them must be collated and publicized. Resist and destroy their political and armed machineries and campaigns to remain in, or gain, power. As much as possible, carry out punitive actions against them.

There is need to further broaden the implementation of collecting fees for allowing candidates to campaign in territories under revolutionary political power. In our experience, most candidates comply with rather than violate this policy. Violators must be meted appropriate punishment. The policy of collecting these fees may also be utilized to establish tactical alliances.

Use every opportunity to gather arms and other forms of support for revolutionary armed struggle.

**Strengthen mass struggles and broaden the united front.** The mass movement is in a favorable position to further advance and significantly influence the leading political battles outside and within the reactionary elections and parliament. This depends on the people continuously carrying out street actions and the advancement of anti-imperialist, antifeudal and antifascist struggles.

There is need to continuously assert the people’s aspirations that united them in the EDSA 2 uprising. Foremost among these, we must continuously demand the arrest and prosecution of Estrada and his leading cohorts, especially in the face of legal and political maneuvers to save Estrada from punishment.

Along with this, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime’s anti-people policies and moves must be opposed. We must fight for the interests of the toiling masses, among which are the implementation of land reform and wage hikes and a stop to increases in the prices of oil and other commodities.

Major openings for alliance work shall exist due to intense rivalries during the elections and beyond. Such opportunities must be utilized from the local to the national level in order to further isolate the most rabidly reactionary candidates, block their assumption to power and help progressive and friendly candidates to assume office.

Opportunities provided by united front work must be used to further expand the the revolutionary forces’ clandestine and open linkages and to make the latter serve the further broadening of opportunities to organize and mobilize the masses. To be able to do this in the swiftest manner, openings provided by the elections must be utilized. **AB**

**The Party and the NPA shall take advantage of the opportunity that the elections will provide to further intensify revolutionary armed struggle, advance anti-imperialist, antifeudal and antifascist mass struggles, further strengthen the influence of the revolutionary movement and broaden the national united front.**

## Lacson: Butcher, trapo

*“I hate politics. And I hate politicians even more”.*

Gen. Panfilo Lacson was forced to eat his words when he was booted out of power as chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) along with the overthrow of his boss Joseph Estrada. Lacson, now one of former Estrada minions trying to return to power, is a senatorial candidate in the coming May elections.

But it is not only his greed for power that has motivated Lacson to run for office. He is being bankrolled by Eduardo “Danding” Cojuangco, who maintains a stable of politicians or finances candidates who could protect his political and economic interests under any regime. Most of all, Lacson is a reliable puppet of US imperialism.

Candidate Lacson’s hands are dripping with blood. As he mingles onstage with other decadent remnants of the Estrada clique, we must thoroughly oppose his candidacy, expose his crimes and his role under the Estrada regime (especially in its final months) and stop him from further deceiving the people.

Still fresh in the people’s collective memory are the heinous bombings perpetrated in five different places in Metro Manila on December 30, which were masterminded by Estrada and Danding Cojuangco and carried out by Lacson’s men. The bombings killed 26 innocent persons and injured more than a hundred. Despite the scores who were killed and maimed, the bombings failed to divert the people’s attention from the explosive information that was being exposed in Estrada’s impeachment trial.

Prior to this, Lacson ordered the abduction and silencing of public relations practitioner Salvador “Bubby” Dacer in November to prevent him from exposing Estrada’s role in the BW Resources scandal. At present, at least seven PAOCTF personnel have been implicated in Dacer’s abduction and summary execution.

Ever since Lacson announced his candidacy in February, a spate of kidnappings and bank holdups has been perpetrated by Lacson’s minions in the Kuratong Baleleng and other criminal syndicates to raise funds for his campaign, sow terror and use this to spread the propaganda that is necessary for Lacson to return to power to maintain “peace and order”.

Lacson’s use of elements of the Philippine National Police as escorts and bodyguards in his campaign has recently come to light. Five regional PNP directors from the Visayas and Mindanao are currently under fire for extending “VIP treatment” to Lacson when he campaigned in their respective areas.

And most recently, Gov. Luis “Chavit” Singson

## Joseph Estrada’s family and cronies continue to move around with impunity

**M**ore than a month has passed since EDSA 2 ousted Joseph Estrada but up to now, neither he nor his biggest cronies has been brought to trial. In fact, they continue to go scot free due to the impotence of the Macapagal-Arroyo regime to decisively prosecute the cases filed against them. Worse, the current regime is forging deals with Estrada and his minions in exchange for badly needed legal and financial support, especially for the coming elections.

Even before Joseph Estrada was ousted on January 20, his cronies were already feverishly bargaining with the Macapagal-Arroyo camp. After living off the fat of the land, they saved themselves and their properties by “withdrawing” support from Estrada. Proof of the decadence of reactionary politics, they are now being tolerated or even coddled by the Macapagal-Arroyo regime. ►

disclosed that when the Estrada regime attempted to legalize jueteng, Lacson asked for 2.5% of the millions of pesos in gross earnings of jueteng operators. Like his boss Estrada, Lacson had wanted to monopolize the distribution of protection money to PNP regional directors to ensure the latter’s loyalty and strengthen his base within the police bureaucracy.

These are but the latest of Lacson’s crimes. More exposés are sure to follow as reactionary political rivalries intensify.

The corrupt and fascist Lacson deserves to be loathed and junked like the overthrown Estrada regime. The hundreds of innocents who have fallen victim to his crimes cry out that he be prosecuted and punished. **AB**

◀ Most brazen was the turncoatism displayed by **Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco** and **Lucio Tan**, two of those who benefited most from the Estrada regime, and their unabashed acceptance by Macapagal-Arroyo. After Danding's Nationalist People's Coalition party bolted the Estrada alliance and his declaration of support for Macapagal-Arroyo amid threats of destabilization, the new regime withdrew its plans of replacing Danding as chair of the San Miguel Corporation (SMC). It will be recalled that Estrada gave the SMC chairmanship to Danding in 1998 using government-sequestered shares.

In addition, Macapagal-Arroyo also offered to Danding and other landlords in the Philippine Coconut Producers Federation or Cocofed the government-sequestered shares (amounting to more than 95%) in the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) through a Sandiganbayan decision declaring the shares as privately owned. For the past 15 years, these shares had been considered public funds and thus were held by the Philippine Commission on Good Government. The Sandiganbayan decision forebodes the likely fate of the 27% sequestered shares in SMC. Danding claims 37.6% of the overall sequestered shares in UCPB and all of the 27% shares in SMC.

Likewise, after Lucio Tan emerged as a "friend" of the Macapagal-Arroyo camp, the new regime declared its readiness to settle his case involving the non-payment of P25.27 billion in taxes. Through the Bangko Sentral, it also rescheduled Tan's payment of a P25-billion loan borrowed from Philippine National Bank (PNB) in October 2000. The BSP also allowed Tan to pay P15 billion of this loan through means other than cash. The Tan-owned PNB suffered heavy withdrawals after exposés of Estrada's criminal activities last year. Most of all, the Macapagal-Ar-

royo government guaranteed the continued existence and expansion of Tan and his minions' empire under her regime.

Other cronies who surfaced and offered their "cooperation" with the new regime were immediately accommodated by Macapagal-Arroyo. This, despite declarations by lawyers who have prosecuted Estrada that the government had more than enough evidence in its possession to convict and send Estrada to jail over more than seven cases of plunder.

**Mark Jimenez:** Once dubbed as a "financial genius" by Estrada, Jimenez is involved in deals that made use of public funds from the SSS and GSIS for private transactions to favored corporations. Among the deals he brokered were the merger of the Philippine Commercial and



Industrial Bank (PCIB) and Equitable Bank and of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and First Pacific where both he and Estrada earned millions in bribes and commissions. He was also among those who manipulated shares in Best World Resources, which is owned by another crony, Dante Tan. Apart from his involvement in cases here in the Philippines, Jimenez also faces cases of giving illegal contributions to the Democratic Party, tax evasion and mail fraud in the US.

**Jaime Dichaves:** Dichaves' name surfaced during Estrada's trial when he claimed ownership of the P3.2-billion Jose Velarde (one of Estrada's aliases) account in PCI-Equitable Bank. Dichaves is one of the directors of Belle Corporation involved in *jai alai* and the squandering of SSS

and GSIS funds in its various transactions. He is a partner of Estrada's favorite mistress Laarni Enriquez in her various businesses, and was also in charge of collecting "tong" in Estrada's behalf from the National Telecommunications Commission. Malacañang itself has tagged him as the second biggest smuggler at the Subic Bay Freeport.

Justice Secretary Hernani Perez has asked Dichaves to be a state witness in exchange for dropping him from a plunder case against Estrada. All Perez asked for were the locations of Estrada's other bank accounts and

the "Boracay" mansion. Dichaves is currently in hiding in the US with his family.

**Charlie "Atong"**

**Ang:** Ang, Estrada's closest gambling partner, was in charge

of Estrada's criminal syndicates involved in illegal gambling. Estrada granted him a contract with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor). He was even appointed as Pagcor consultant for *jai alai* operations.

Like Jimenez, Ang has also offered to testify in exchange for his being dropped from plunder cases against Estrada. Although the new regime has not yet openly agreed to Ang's conditions, his deposition has already been taken in Hongkong where he is currently based.

Apart from these three, Estrada lawyer Edward Serapio and Estrada mistress Rowena Lopez have also offered to testify. Serapio served as Estrada's "go-between" in dealing with the criminal syndicates he coddled. Other cronies on the list include William Gatchalian, Jacinto Ng Sr., Lucio Lao Co, Jose Luis Yulo, Dante Tan and Luis "Baby" Asistio, who all conspired with Estrada in looting the nation's coffers but are currently free to move around and live it up in the country. **AB**



# The peace talks must proceed on the basis of past agreements

The principals of both sides have also approved the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law or

**C**ontrary to the overthrown Estrada regime's relentless all-out war policy, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime now stresses the use of peace negotiations in confronting the revolutionary movement. To support this, Macapagal-Arroyo has declared the "official termination" of the all-out war policy against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and announced the release of 73 out of 254 political prisoners.

On February 9, former Justice Silvestre Bello III and four others were appointed to the panel that would negotiate with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP).

On the part of the NDFP, Comrade Luis Jalandoni was reappointed as head of the panel that would negotiate with the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP). As it has shown in the past, the NDFP stands ready to meet with the GRP to discuss issues that lie at the root of the armed conflict. The peace talks comprise an additional arena of struggle that is secondary to the armed struggle and the revolutionary mass movement. The revolutionary movement engages in peace talks devoid of any illusion that the basic problems of the people would be resolved or that the GRP is sincere in the pursuit of peace.

In the past, it was the GRP that served as the biggest obstacle to the advance of the peace talks. With its rabid denial to recognize the NDFP as an equal in the peace talks, it has sabotaged agreements that have been forged, thus resulting in the talks' repeated failures.

## **ADHERE TO PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS!**

The Macapagal-Arroyo regime must go beyond releasing political prisoners or announcing the end of the all-out war policy to once more pursue the peace talks. It is its obligation to recognize previous agreements entered into by the GRP and the NDFP.

The Hague Joint Declaration signed by both panels on September 1, 1992 clearly states the agenda of the talks in their proper order. This agreement provides the objectives, framework and substantive agenda of the peace talks as well as mutually agreed principles that shall guide it.

CARHRIHL. Other agenda, in their proper order, deal on socio-economic reforms; constitutional and electoral reforms; and the disposition of forces.

The NDFP has faithfully abided by the agreed framework as stipulated in these two agreements. It has not imposed any condition on the GRP for pursuing the talks and in fact, has continued to perform goodwill measures to prove its seriousness to negotiate, such as releasing prisoners of war. This is in contrast to the sordid record of the Ramos and Estrada regimes in violating the agreements. Aside from insisting on the use of the GRP constitution as framework for the talks, contrary to the provisions of The Hague Joint Declaration, the GRP has even tried to compel the NDFP to surrender and abandon armed struggle.

The NDFP and GRP also signed on June 14, 1994 the Breukelen Joint Declaration stating that the formal negotiations would be held in a neutral country. The NDFP has stood by this agreement and has not been coopted by past regimes on schemes to hold the talks in Manila; to hold localized peace talks; and to declare a ceasefire.

Representatives of the NDFP and GRP involved in the negotiations have also been accorded protection through the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) signed on February 24, 1995; while the Joint Agreement on the Formation, Sequence and Operationalization of the Reciprocal Working Committees (June 26, 1995) guaranteed orderly discussions on the first substantive agenda—the issue of human rights and international humanitarian law.

The peace talks can only advance if the Macapagal-Arroyo regime recognizes past agreements, which have been junked by previous regimes to cover up their lack of a serious agenda in the talks.

## ADVANCE THE CARHRIHL!

The CARHRIHL, which was signed by both negotiating panels on March 16, 1998 has become an added weapon in the hands of the Filipino people. Comrade Mariano Orosa signed it as principal of the NDFP on April 10, 1998 while Estrada signed it on August 7, 1998. All revolutionary forces have been implementing it and shall continue to implement it in its entirety and without discrimination. It is a historic document because it has addressed the aspirations of the Filipino people regarding respect for their rights and it is a testament to the reactionary regime's acceptance of the issue of widespread human rights violations. This document also confirms the equal standing of the NDFP and GRP.

CARHRIHL covered the entire range of human rights. It guaranteed the right of all democratic classes and sectors in society against exploitation and oppression. It likewise contained added provisions on international humanitarian laws of war and contains higher standards than Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

The NDFP assigned Comrade Fidel Agcaoili as head of the joint monitoring committee which is a key component of and a clear necessity in, the implementation of CARHRIHL. The Estrada regime failed to form its own parallel committee. Instead of advancing the agreement it signed, it has junked it and committed one violation after another, maneuvered against and sabotaged it, leading to the eventual collapse of the peace talks.

The peace talks can only advance if the new Macapagal-Arroyo regime recognizes these agreements, especially with regard to implementing the CARHRIHL. In the past, these agreements have been junked by previous regimes to cover up their lack of a serious agenda in the talks. **AB**

# Free all political prisoners!

THE CALL FOR THE MACAPAGAL-Arroyo regime's immediate and unconditional release of all 254 political prisoners is a resounding one. The new regime must respond to this urgent demand by the political prisoners' relatives, human rights organizations, the church and the entire people.

Political prisoners are victims of the cruel counterrevolutionary war being waged by the reactionary state. They were arrested and imprisoned because they struggled for the interests of the toiling masses. Criminal charges were filed against them in order to conceal the political nature of their cases. Their continued detention is a violation of the civil rights of political prisoners.

Despite stiff opposition from US imperialism and the military, particularly the executive secretary, Gen. Renato de Villa, Macapagal-Arroyo was compelled in the last week of February to order the release of political prisoners due to the consistent clamor of a wide section of society. However, unlike Corazon Aquino who ordered the immediate release in 1986 of a majority of the political prisoners incarcerated under martial law, Arroyo's order covered only 73 detainees.

Even before Estrada's ouster, the former Department of Justice (DOJ) had already approved the release of around 50 political prisoners due to the thoroughgoing struggle of human rights advocates. The new regime added 27 more to

the list but imposed so many conditions for their release. Worse, de Villa arrogantly ordered the removal of about 30 names from the list, including Leoncio Pitao, a New People's Army leader from Mindanao and Lorna Baba, a church worker.

Like the previous regimes, the Macapagal-Arroyo government refuses to free Donato Continente and Juanito Itaas due to the intervention of US imperialism. This, despite their having been granted parole by the reactionary courts. Continente and Itaas have both been accused of killing American Col. James Rowe in 1989.

The continued imprisonment of political detainees is an enormous injustice. It becomes an even greater injustice, considering that they remain incarcerated while the Macapagal-Arroyo regime continues to allow the worst of criminals such as Joseph Estrada and Panfilo Lacson to roam freely across the nation, feels indebted to butchers like Angelo Reyes, and befriends and coddles exploiters and oppressors like Danding Cojuangco and Lucio Tan.

For the political detainees, their relatives and human rights advocates, the struggle shall continue until all political prisoners are freed. It has become ever clearer that every step that brings them closer to the freedom they aspire for is achieved only through their relentless struggle and commitment. One other thing is certain: as long as the ruling system that views revolution as a criminal act remains unchanged, the struggle shall continue even beyond prison walls. **AB**



# The puppet Macapagal regime (1962-65)

**D**iosdado Macapagal, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's late father and avowed model, was a rabid advocate of imperialist domination and exploitation of the Filipino people. It was under his government (1962-65) that some of the worst policies that opened up the economy to unlimited plunder by foreign monopoly capitalists, were implemented.

Macapagal's life and record were marked by servility to US imperialism. Macapagal first worked for the largest American law firm (Ross, Lawrence, Selph and Carrascoso), and later with the Department of Foreign Affairs. Before he ran and won as congressman in 1948, he first served as assistant secretary of the Philippine embassy to Washington D.C. From 1950-53, Macapagal headed the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and was assigned as delegate to regional and international conferences sponsored by US imperialism. He was among those who drafted the US-Philippine Mutual Defense Treaty and was a signatory to the Japanese Peace Treaty in 1951. Macapagal was also among those who signed the pro-imperialist and oppressive Laurel-Langley Agreement. These were among the worst and most unequal agreements entered into by the puppet republic in its entire history.

Because Macapagal's candidacy for the presidency in 1961 was funded by US imperialism, then president Carlos P. Garcia was defeated despite his having spent government funds and resources for his own campaign. Macapagal's platform of "free initiative" and "decentralization" was a grand deception. In fact, the US bankrolled parties to support Macapagal in exchange for their ardent compliance with imperialist dictates that were couched through the World Bank and International Monetary Fund and the puppet regime's American "advisers."

UNDER THE MACAPAGAL REGIME, PRO-IMPERIALIST AND antipeople policies not only continued, they were further strengthened. Following are some of these policies:

**Decontrol.** As soon as he assumed office, Macapagal revoked controls over the operations of foreign corporations in the Philippines. He dismantled restrictions on foreign investments and allowed the free dumping of higher-priced foreign products. This was taken ad-

vantage of by the big comprador bourgeoisie and big landlords who exported massive volumes of raw materials and imported finished products on an unlimited scale.

**Devaluation.** Because of decontrol, the cost of importing finished products, raw materials, spare parts, fuel and other goods from the US shot up. Eventually, the country's dollar reserves dried up and the Macapagal regime was forced to devalue the peso from P2 to P3.90 vis a vis the dollar. The Philippines was obliged to accept a giant "stabilization fund" from US banks in the Philippines. Simultaneously, the prices of commodities soared, workers' wages shrunk and the people's living conditions dove to new lows.

**Control of foreign investors over local funds.** The Program Implementation Agency (PIA) and other lending agencies were set up to expedite foreign investors' access to credit from local banks. Due to strict US regulations on the export of dollars, US companies managed to expand their capitalization in the Philippines by drawing funds from US-controlled local banks.

**Upholding US foreign policy.** Macapagal supported Maphilindo (Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia) to uphold his recognition and support for "Malaysia", which was formed by the US; and to coerce the Indonesian government of Sukarno into giving concessions to US corporations in Malaya and North Kalimantan. To pose himself as a champion of independent foreign policy, Macapagal junked the US-RP Treaty of General Relations while retaining other unequal agreements that expanded on this treaty.

**Collaborating with the US to amend the US-RP Military Bases Agreement.** Although not ratified by the senate, Macapagal agreed to expand the jurisdiction of the commander of the US bases in the Philippines.

**Sending Filipino troops to join the US war of aggression against the Vietnamese people.** The Macapagal government campaigned to support the US war of aggression against Vietnam. Macapagal's call to send troops to Vietnam was supported by Fili-



pino agents of the Central Intelligence Agency who had business interests in this war.

**Supporting the Asian Development Bank (ADB).** Macapagal sponsored a conference in support of the ADB and even offered Manila as the site for its headquarters. This was to buttress the imperialist collaboration of the US and Japan, and to support Japan as the US' chief puppet in Asia. Imperialist policies designed to ensure that the Philippines and other Asian countries would remain as suppliers of cheap raw materials to the US and Japan are coursed through the ADB. It was in Macapagal's time that Japan's share in the country's foreign trade rose to 20%.

**Changing independence day from July 4 to June 12.** This aimed to conceal Macapagal's blatantly pro-imperialist stance. The prevarication that the US "granted" independence to the Philippines on July 4 was replaced with another lie stating that Philippine independence was merely "returned" by the US on this date.

**Agricultural Land Reform Code.** Macapagal declared that tenancy ran "against public policy" and promised to liberate the masses of tenants from this system. In actual fact, Macapagal guaranteed landlords "a fair price" for their lands acquired by the government. In contrast, lands for redistribution were priced way above what the farmer "beneficiaries" could afford. The tenants were not liberated, but subjected to another system of tenancy.

THE REGIME'S PUPPETRY TO IMPERIALISM AND its advocacy of the interests of big foreign and local capitalists and reactionaries were the highlights of Diosdado Macapagal's government. Because of this, he was praised by reactionaries. Also because of this, he and the antipeople system he perpetrated were despised and resisted by the masses of the Filipino people.

The Macapagal-Arroyo regime's proud reference to the Macapagal regime as its role model is pleasing to imperialism, and is no cause for the people to celebrate. **AB**

# News from the Cagayan Valley Region



## More than 500 families in Isabela benefit from agrarian revolution

IN THE BENITO TESORIO FRONT IN ISABELA, more than 500 families have benefited from the fruits of the first wave of implementation of the agrarian revolution campaign launched by the New People's Army. In the whole of Cagayan Valley, more than 1,000 families from the poor and lower-middle peasantry likewise benefited from various antifeudal struggles waged last year.

### ASSERTING THEIR RIGHT TO THE LAND

In a village within the front, peasants militantly asserted their right to till a parcel of land that they had long been farming after the reactionary government grabbed it, declared it public land and had it planted with Gmelina trees. This, the government perpetrated despite the lack of land for villagers to till.

In February 2000, the land was "reclaimed" by its rightful owners—the poor peasants who had long developed it. More than 20 families were involved in the struggle. Because they were organized, they had the capability to fight for their rights and defend the gains of their successful struggle.

In another village, peasants were able to lower land rent from 1/3 of the gross harvest to 1/4 of the net harvest. This was after they dialogued and forged an agreement with the rich peasant from whom they rented the land.

### RAISING WAGES

It was in the campaign to raise the wages of farm workers that the biggest victories were scored. More than 480 families from the basic masses in three barrios

benefited. A big percentage of the population in these villages belonged to mass organizations. Meanwhile, some members of the Sangguniang Barangay were members of cells for the middle forces.

In one village, wages were raised from P70 to P80 for planting and harvesting. A bigger raise was achieved for plowing, cutting grass and *panaglimbang*. The organized peasants initiated the campaign among farm workers by asking them to sign a petition to raise wages. The petition was presented before the Barangay Assembly and supported by members of the Sangguniang Barangay.

In another village, the masses also asserted their demand before the Barangay Assembly. But because they found the raise approved by the Barangay Council (P5.00) too low, they fought for a higher raise before the individuals who hired farm workers. Just as in the first village, they were able to raise wages from P70 to P80 (for planting and harvesting) in two areas.

The highest wage increase was achieved in the third village. The Barangay Assembly voted to raise wages from P70 to P100 (also for planting and harvesting). An even higher wage hike was achieved for plowing and cutting grass.

#### **GROWING STRUGGLE**

Aside from these successful campaigns, a petition is currently being circulated to lower interests on loans, raise the prices of banana crops and allow the return of poor peasants who had been expelled from the land by hacenderos.

## **AFP captive Ka Andrea escapes**

AFTER BEING INCARCERATED INSIDE A CAMP of the reactionary AFP for more than six months, Cheryl Arcilla (Ka Andrea) was able to escape from the 5<sup>th</sup> ID hospital at Camp Melchor dela Cruz in Soyung, Echague on January 30.

Ka Andrea was captured by the enemy in Dapis, Mapalad, San Agustin on July 6, 2000 while she was recuperating from an illness in a peasant's house.

Upon her arrest, she was charged with multiple murder, a non-bailable offense. She was accused of involvement in the ambush of Col. Josefino Manayao and 15 others on June 27 in Linumot, Jones, Isabela. Aside from other members of the New People's Army, other innocent persons who had nothing to do with the

Manayao ambush were also charged such as NDFP chief political consultant Jose Ma. Sison, Fr. Luis Jalandoni, members of KARAPATAN, church people and others.

While a captive of the enemy, Ka Andrea was forced to join military operations and made to talk over the radio against her will. A few days before her escape, the AFP had even bragged that she would turn state witness against the other accused.

## **Continuing attacks by the fascist military in Cagayan Valley**

ON FEBRUARY 14, 2001, THE CPP-NPA-NDF in Cagayan Valley issued a statement condemning the fascist attacks of the AFP from December 9, 2000 to January 9, 2001. This article lists incidents in addition to those mentioned on December 14, 2000 regarding the AFP's violations of its self-declared suspension of offensive military operations or SOMO.

Following are some of the more brazen cases:

#### **IN EASTERN CAGAYAN**

Since November 26, barriofolk in Amulung, Alcala and Baggao have been battered by military operations that have been conducted without letup up to the present.

On January 8, about three platoons launched an operation in Dalaoig, Cataraoan, Capacuan and other villages in Alcala. The military even burned down a poultry house in Dalaoig.

Prior to this, AFP troops led by a Captain Lapizar encircled on December 4 several houses in Barrio Bagunot, Baggao whose residents were suspected of hosting Red fighters. When no Red fighters were found, the soldiers terrorized and threatened the village folk. The villagers were forced to stop their farming and other activities out of fear. The AFP troops came back to terrorize the barriofolk and ransacked their homes on December 9.

In the first week of January, with the start of the New Year, PNP and AFP forces "gifted" residents of Barsat West, Baggao and other nearby villages with a military operation.

Paramilitary forces are also being set up despite opposition from the local folk. The CAFGU has been forcibly set up in Dadda, Amulung; and in the villages

of Mocag, Mabini, Bitag Pequeño and Agaman Norte in Baggao. Meanwhile, villagers continue to fiercely resist the recruitment and setting up of CAGFU units in the barrios of Alba, San Antonio, Barsat West, Masical, Sta. Margarita, Bitag Grande, San Vicente, Bagunot, Caruppian, Taguing and others in Baggao; and in the barrios of San Manuel, Manalo and Monte Alegre in Amulung.

### **IN WESTERN CAGAYAN**

According to correspondence reports from the Danilo Ben Front in Western Cagayan, the 41<sup>st</sup> IB launched continuous combat operations in the towns of Rizal (in Zinundungan Valley), Lasam, Sto. Niño, Piat, Tuao and Allacapan. Operations continue in Zinundungan Valley.

### **IN SOUTHEASTERN ISABELA**

Military operations have continued without letup since November 13, 2000 in southeastern Isabela. According to correspondence reports from the Benito Tesorio Front, five platoons of the 54<sup>th</sup> IB PA are conducting operations in the Jones-San Agustin-San Guillermo area. A platoon of the 5<sup>th</sup> ID Reconnaissance Company has been sent to beef up forces in Jones, Isabela. Repeated operations were launched in Pagasa, Narra, Aromin, Salvacion, Villa Campo, Villa Rey, Mabbayad, Madadamian and Magleticia in Echague town; in Aringgay, San Guillermo; in Dicamay, Villa Bello, Linumot, Santa Isabel, Napaliong and Dibuluan in Jones, Isabela and other nearby areas. Military operations were also launched in Dicamay Uno, Dicamay Dos, Diarsatan and Villa Bello in Jones.

When military operations were launched in Echague, Jones and Angadanan, two members of the New People's Army, Mar "Ka Mar" Rodriguez and JR "Ka CJ" Bulusan, were forcibly taken along. They were captured by the 54<sup>th</sup> IB on November 18, 2000 in Maddadamian, Echague, Isabela. This is a clear violation of provisions of Protocol II of the Geneva Conventions regarding prisoners of war.

To justify their operations in the Angadanan-Echague-San Guillermo-Jones area which would be a patent violation of their own SOMO, the AFP spread rumors that the NPA was planning to attack the town halls of San Guillermo and Angadanan on December 28. It was not long before a military operation was launched in the area. But all it resulted in was a misencounter



between the AFP (led by a Lieutenant Arbuez) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) on January 1.

Shamefaced, the military captured on January 4 in Aringgan, San Guillermo, a 15-year-old civilian and barrio resident named Jun Aquino, and arrogantly displayed him like a war trophy. Elements of the 5<sup>th</sup> Recon Coy of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division terrorized the youth as they forced him to admit involvement in the NPA.

Prior to this, combat operations were launched from December 13 to 16 by two platoons of the 54<sup>th</sup> IB in the villages of Dicamay Uno, Dicamay Dos, Diarsatan and Villa Bello in Jones, Isabela. Although the fascist troops sported no nameplates, they were recognized by the masses in the area.

Commando and strike operations were also launched by AFP troops in civilian clothes in Aringgan, San Francisco, Mabbayad, Maddadamian, Dipanyong, Benguet and nearby villages in the town of San Guillermo. Some of them posed as Red fighters.

Strike operations were likewise conducted in Garit Sur, Rumang-ay, Dammang West, Dammang East, Reserba and Barkadero in Echague town; and commando operations in Narra, Salvacion, Aromin, Villa Campo and Babaran in the same town from December 2 to 6.

### **IN NORTHERN ISABELA**

Based on correspondence reports from the Filomena Asuncion Front, widespread suppression campaigns were being conducted by fascist troops of the Bravo Coy of the 45<sup>th</sup> IB based in Sto. Rosario, Delfin Albano and Manano Mallig, Isabela. Commando and combat operations continued relentlessly in Quirino, Delfin Albano, Ilagan, Tumauini, Cabagan and other nearby towns during the SOMO.

Intense terrorist and psywar operations are being waged by 45<sup>th</sup> IB troops led by Lieutenant Quiendo against villagers who host Red fighters.

### **IN CENTRAL ISABELA**

According to correspondence reports from the Reynaldo Piñon Front, four platoons of the 45<sup>th</sup> IB launched combat operations from December 8 up to mid-December. They launched another operation during the New Year in the villages of Benito Soliven, San Mariano, Naguilian and Cauayan.

### **IN QUIRINO AND NUEVA VIZCAYA**

According to reports from the Venerando Villacillo Front, ceaseless operations are launched by the 54<sup>th</sup> IB of the 502<sup>nd</sup> Brigade likewise in San Agustin, ►



## NEWS OF STRUGGLE

---

### **7 SOLDIERS KILLED, 15 ARMS SEIZED IN NPA RAID IN SAMAR**

Seven soldiers were killed and five were wounded after Red fighters of the New People's Army (NPA) raided a Philippine Army detachment in Barangay Babaclayon, San Jose de Buan, Samar, at around 4:00 in the morning of February 12. The NPA was also able to seize 15 high-powered firearms.

The 12 soldiers manning the detachment were almost wiped out. Confiscated from them were eight M16s, seven M14s and one radio set.

### **FOREIGN COMPANY PUNISHED IN CEBU**

An NPA team peppered with bullets a vehicle loaded with three engineers of the TOA Construction along the perimeter of St. Jude Acres Subdivision in Barangay Bulacao, Pardo District, Cebu City around dusk on February 22. TOA Construction is a Japanese company. No one was killed or seriously wounded in the ambush.

In a statement by Comrade Silvino "Ka Bino" Clamucha, spokesperson of the Communist Party of the Philippines in Central Visayas, the ambush was meant to relay to TOA Construction and to the government itself, the movement's objection to the continuance of the construction of the multi-billion peso South Coastal Road and South Reclamation Project. Ka Bino said that TOA Construction had caused the unemployment of around 300 fisherfolk along the coasts of Barangay Aladka Mambaling, Inayawan and Basak in Cebu

City and other parts of Talisay City. He also said that the NPA punished TOA Construction for being a huge menace to the environment.

### **NPA CONDEMNS DANDING COJUANGCO AND HENCHMEN**

The CPP-NPA in Negros declared that the group of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and his candidates should not be supported and instead opposed. According to a statement issued by the revolutionary movement in the region, the campaign against Danding's candidates will be waged through a combination of armed and unarmed, legal and illegal means. The CPP-NPA in Negros said that the campaign aims to eventually destroy the power of the rabidly reactionary Danding and his cohorts in the island. The statement was made in the face unequivocal threats of fraud by Danding and his parties, the United Negros Alliance, the Nationalist People's Coalition and the Lapian ng Masang Pilipino in the forthcoming May 14 elections.

The movement also condemned the collaboration of Cojuangco and the RPA-ABB in protecting cooperatives that serve the financial interests of Danding in Negros.

### **KA ROGER TO GLORIA ARROYO-MOVE FAST TO SOLVE BIG CRIMES**

Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal challenged the Macapagal-Arroyo regime to immediately and decisively resolve major

---

◀ Aglipay and Nagtipunan. The same is true in the Dupax-Aritao area up to Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, where more troops from the 5<sup>th</sup> ID have been poured in.

Led by Lt. Michael Glen Manansala, the 54<sup>th</sup> IB mercilessly killed two suspected NPA members Luis dela Cruz and Roger dela Cruz in Sitio Sangaydi,

Villa Gracia, Maddela, Quirino on December 17. No less than the PNP in Maddela attested to the fact that those killed by the AFP were ordinary civilians.

Aside from waging counter-revolutionary war, forces of the 5<sup>th</sup> ID are also involved in criminal activities. Its fascist troops have perpetrated many

cases of highway robbery along the Maharlika Highway, near the Nueva Vizcaya-Nueva Ecija border. Before the New Year, they robbed a *balikbayan* who hailed from Luna, Isabela of more than P100,000 in cash aside from jewelry between Carranglan, Nueva Ecija and Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya. **AB**



## NEWS OF STRUGGLE

---

◀ crimes if it does not wish to be preempted by the acts of disruption and sabotage of its enemies who are unable to accept defeat and of those who have latched on to the new government with their own agenda.

Ka Roger issued this challenge while debunking accusations that the revolutionary movement was involved in the killing of Filemon “Popoy” Lagman on February 6. According to Ka Roger, the revolutionary movement, which has incomparably greater and more pressing priorities, had no urgent or grave reason to kill Lagman. Ka Roger said that the group that perpetrated the killing definitely had a different agenda and set of priorities.

He also stated that the killing of Lagman was part of the desire of some factions to foment trouble while the new government was positioning itself and the broad masses of the people were urgently demanding the implementation of justice and reforms for which they revolted in EDSA. Ka Roger also disclosed that alongside the Lagman murder, Estrada, top military and police leaders, Romulo Kintanar, Arturo Tabara, Nilo dela Cruz and others had plotted an assassination attempt on Comrade Jose Ma. Sison.

Ka Roger added that the Macapagal-Arroyo regime must immediately address and solve these cases, along with the gruesome bombings on December 30, the abduction of Bubby Dacer, and most of all, the plunder cases and other crimes of Estrada and his cronies. If not, he said, it would not be a remote possibility for the Macapagal-Arroyo government to suffer the same fate, or worse, than that of the ousted Estrada regime.

### **NEW PLUNDER CASE AGAINST ESTRADA FILED BY 81 GROUPS**

The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (BAYAN) led 81 people’s organizations in filing a case of plunder against ousted president Joseph Estrada on February 8. According to BAYAN, the illegal ownership by Estrada of P10 to P15 billion in savings deposited in several banks under various aliases will be used as evidence in trying the case.

Along with this, BAYAN called on the

Macapagal-Arroyo regime to try Estrada’s cases so that he could be punished immediately in accordance with the people’s demand.

BAYAN also warned Ombudsman Aniano Disierto that the people were maintaining their vigilance so that justice would be served during Estrada’s prosecution, and that they would not hesitate to file an impeachment complaint against Desierto should he side with the ousted president.

In a related development, Barug Sugbu or the “truth commission” was established in Cebu to investigate plunder, graft and corruption and human rights violation cases against Joseph Estrada. The investigation topped a six-point agenda being advanced by the commission.

### **YOUTH CHALLENGE MACAPAGAL-ARROYO REGIME**

Youth and student groups challenged the newly installed administration to address the youth agenda that the ousted US-Estrada regime had brazenly junked. In a statement by the umbrella organization Estrada Resign Youth Movement (ERYM), the youth said that it was the regime’s inaction towards issues affecting the youth and student sector that pushed hundreds of thousands of youth to take to the streets to oust Estrada.

According to the ERYM, the Macapagal-Arroyo regime should pay attention to the following points: (1) Opposition to tuition fee hikes and putting a stop to all forms of tuition fee increases. (2) Advancement of student rights. (3) Increasing state subsidies for education. (4) Unconditional release of all youth political detainees.

The youth demanded the repeal of the Education Act of 1982 which they said was at the root of all tuition fee increases. They likewise stressed that student councils and publications must be revived. They said that there were more than 300 pending cases of suppression in various schools.

Aside from their sectoral demands, the youth-student organization also challenged the Macapagal-Arroyo regime to release all political prisoners and immediately prosecute and punish deposed president Joseph Estrada.



## NEWS OF STRUGGLE

---

### **DENR EMPLOYEES ASSAIL CERILLES**

DENR Kalikasan and the Association of Contractual Employees of DENR led by COURAGE assailed the denial of DENR secretary and Estrada crony Antonio Cerilles that he made midnight appointments and issued Environmental Clearance Certificates (ECC) on the eve of Estrada's ouster.

In a rally held for the second time, the employees disclosed that Cerilles had signed special orders reassigning his minions from the office of the secretary to Zamboanga del Sur and Ozamis and Pagadian cities, which are known bailiwicks of the Cerilleses, as well as ECCs and contracts favoring logging syndicates.

According to the rallyists, they will no longer allow themselves to be led by Cerilles, a henchman of Estrada. They also said that they would be watching Cerilles' every move until the new department secretary is seated, and that they would not allow the lessons of the struggle against both Cerilles and Estrada to be forgotten.

### **CRONY'S FISHPOND TORN DOWN BY INFANTA BARRIOFOLK**

More than 1,500 barriofolk of Infanta, Quezon, tore down on February 7 a 15-hectare illegal fishpond owned by Macario "Boy" Asistio, former mayor of Caloocan and close friend of Joseph Estrada.

Using shovels, crowbars and pieces of wood, the residents of Infanta destroyed Asistio's dike to show their opposition to the fishpond which has caused the unemployment of many local residents. When the dike was first constructed, Asistio's minions ruthlessly destroyed mangroves in an abandoned fishpond in Barangay Binulasan without permission from the DENR and the barriofolk.

Workers at the fishpond and the authorities

were rendered helpless when the people arrived aboard tricycles, trucks and other vehicles to destroy Asistio's fishpond. According to their leaders, they did it to drive home the point that "no one can deny the people of Infanta a free source of livelihood". The people also condemned Malacañang's silence on the issue.

### **ASSASSINATION PLOT AGAINST KA JOMA BARED**

Comrade Jose Ma. "Ka Joma" Sison, founding chair of the Party and chief political consultant of the NDFP, bared a new assassination plot against him. According to information gathered for the past few years, he said, the plan, tactics and operatives being used for this plot point to former PNP chief and loyal Estrada henchman Panfilo Lacson, along with PNP intelligence chief General Yarcia, revolutionary renegade Romulo Kintanar and gangsters Arturo Tabara and Nilo dela Cruz of the RPA-ABB as masterminds, with Joseph Estrada himself at the helm.

In a statement released on February 3, Ka Joma confirmed Col. Reynaldo Berroya's revelation on January 31 that Estrada and Lacson were planning to have him killed. The plan was hatched as early as May 2000 and was immediately discovered by the NDFP because of the culprits' careless surveillance style.

Ka Joma demanded that Estrada immediately cancel his order to Kintanar and the latter's men. He also called on the operatives who were ordered to execute the plan to disengage themselves from it because Estrada would definitely not be able to deliver on his promises after the operation. Ka Joma also expressed hopes that the current administration would be able to take action and thwart this serious threat against his life.